

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Preparation of the New Official East
German Maps by the Northern Surveying
Service.

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REFERENCES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Vermessungsdienst Nord (Surveying Service North) was headed by Surveying Engineer Gerhard Wittig and was located on Karl-Marx-Strasse, Schwerin. It had offices at Rostock, Neubrandenburg and Schwerin. A Soviet advisor was attached to the Vermessungsdienst Nord. The offices at Rostock, Neubrandenburg and Schwerin maintained field offices in various towns of the district.
2. Between 1952 and 1955, the Soviet Air Force made aerial photographs of all East Germany. The aircraft flew at an altitude of about 4,000 m. and moved from east to west. The aerial photographs were analyzed at the offices of the Surveying Service.
3. At first, the 1:25,000 maps were revised. In 1955, work was started on the revision of the 1:10,000 maps.
4. In the arrangement of map grids, the [] grid system was replaced by the Krasovskiy system and all grids were related to the Soviet zero grid line. Maps were made 40 cm. square and they represent an area of 100 square km. Only some of the old map legends were retained, and in the use of map lines, Soviet procedures were followed.
5. The 1:25,000 maps were completed prior to the end of 1955, approved by the Ministry of the Interior and then sent to printed. The maps were scheduled to be issued in late 1956. Military installations may be entered on maps only after approval by the Soviet Army. The installations themselves had been blurred on the aerial photographs. The 1:25,000 maps were made for all East Germany, but the 1:10,000 maps were prepared only for a 20 km strip along the western border of East Germany.

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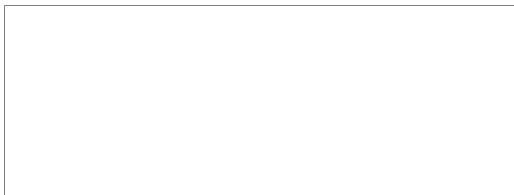
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Attachment:  sketch with legend of the most important arbitrary symbols 25X1
used for the new official maps of East Germany (3 pages).



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Annex

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Explanation of Conventional Signs Used for the New Official Maps of the GDRLegend

- 1a - Bezirk boundaries
- 1b - Kreis boundaries
- 1c - Boundaries of communities
- 2a - Railroad signs, the number of tracks is indicated by the signs within the white field of the symbol
- 2b - Narrow-gauge railroad lines
- 2c - Railroad stations with tracks and installations shown in faithful outline
- 2d - Engine shed or roundhouse
- 2e - Signal installation outside railroad stations
- 3a - Autobahnen marked by letter "A" and a figure indicating the width of the individual lanes
- 3b - Long-distance highways, the letters indicating the surface of the road. A stands for asphalt, B for concrete, P for pavement (the figure in parenthesis refers to the usable width of the highway).
- 3c - Highways, the figure indicates the distance to the next locality.
- 3d - Roads with a width of up to 4m
- 3e - Local roads, the figure indicates the width of the road
- 3f - Field paths
- 3g - Poor paths
- 4a - Bridges, the figure refers to the carrying capacity of the bridge in tons. The length of the bridge is also stated if it exceeds 10 m.
- 4b - Culvert
- 5a - Embankments and cuttings, the figure refers to the difference in altitude between the lowest and highest point.
- 5b - Dikes and fills
- 6 - Churches. A point fixed by triangulation is indicated by a white circle; a point not fixed by triangulation is marked by a black circle.
- 7 - Chapel
- 8 - Cemetery
- 9 - Wind mill
- 10 - Oil mill
- 11 - Observation tower
- 12a - Wooden fence
- 12b - Mesh wire fence
- 12c - Barbed wire fence
- 13 - Hedge
- 14 - Prehistoric barrow, or boulder
- 15a - Woods painted green. The type of tree prevailing is indicated. In the event of mixed forest, several symbols are used. The prevailing type of tree is indicated by abbreviations: Bu stands for Buche (beech tree), Bi for Birke (birch tree), Ei for Eiche (oak tree), etc. Figures added have the following meaning: The figure above the fraction stroke indicates the height of trees, the figure below the fraction stroke indicates the average thickness of trees.

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Legend continued:

- 15b - Ways and lanes in forest. The width of main forest lanes is indicated by figures.
- 15c - Clearing within a forest
- 15d - Windfallen wood within a forest.
- 15e - Park
- 15f - Individual trees
- 16 - Swampy terrain passable
- 16b - Swampy terrain, passable with difficulties
- 16c - Swampy, impassable; the figure refers to the depth of the swamp in meters
- 17 - Meadow
- 18 - Pasture
- 19a - Garden
- 19b - Garden with fruit trees
- 20a
- and b - Bushes
- 20c - Bushes extending along the boundary of a field
- 21a - Transmission line upto 220 V
- 21b - High-tension transmission line fitted on wooden masts
- 21c - High-tension transmission line on steel masts or concrete masts
- 21d - High-tension transmission line on wooden masts placed irregularly
- 21e - A telephone line on wooden masts
- 21f - Power transmission line with transformer
- 22a - Fire-proof buildings
- 22b - Non-fire-proof buildings
- 22c - Public buildings (post offices, schools etc)
- 22d - Major economic installations, abbreviations added indicate the type of installation
- 22e - Forestry
- 22f - Factory with smoke stack; the abbreviations indicate the type of installation
- 22g - Chemical works
- 23 - Road signs
- 24 - Filling station, fuel dump, battery charging station (within major localities, filling stations are marked by a "T".)
- 25 - Airfield
- 26 - Trigonometrical points, the figures indicating the altitude. The altitude has been determined with an accuracy of plus/minus 0.2 mm.
- 27 - Probably bench mark
- 28a - Waters more than 5 m wide are marked by two lines; waters with a width under 5 m are marked by one line. The speed of current is indicated in meters/second.
- 28b - Regulated waters more than 3 m wide
- 29a - Contour line for the 25 m level
- 29b - Contour line for the 5 m level
- 29c - Contour line for the 2.5 m level
- 29d - Contour line for the 1.25 m level

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